AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A controlled release pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pellet core having a diameter from about 0.5 to about 2.00 mm from which a low dosage of tamsulosin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is freely soluble in water can be released in a controlled manner independently from pH ~~thereby providing a lower biological variability~~, wherein said pellet core comprises microcrystalline cellulose, in an amount from about 75 to about 90 weight percent of the pellet core, and at least one water insoluble permeable polymer and wherein said pellet core is coated with a gastroresistant and/or release controlling coating.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A controlled release pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pellet core having a diameter from about 0.5 to about 2.00 mm comprising tamsulosin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, microcrystalline cellulose, in an amount from about 75 to about 90 weight percent of the pellet core, and at least one insoluble permeable polymer and at least one surfactant and optionally other excipients, wherein said pellet core is coated with a gastroresistant and/or release controlling coating.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein said insoluble permeable polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic polymers, alkylcelluloses, hydroxyalkylcelluloses, and a combination thereof.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 3 wherein said insoluble permeable polymer is a copolymer of ethylacrylate and methylmethacrylate in a ratio of 2:1.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein the diameter of the pellet cores is from about 0.5 to about 1.25 mm.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein the mass of the applied coating is from about 5 to about 10% relative to the mass of the dried pellet core.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 7 wherein the mass of the applied coating is from about 5 to about 8% relative to the mass of the dried pellet core.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein the coating comprises at least one polymer soluble at pH values higher than about 5.5 and at least one polymer with a pH independent solubility.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 9 wherein said at least one polymer soluble at higher pH values is an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and ethylacrylate and said at least one polymer with pH independent solubility is a copolymer of ethylacrylate and methylmethacrylate.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein the pellets are filled into capsules or sachets or compressed into tablets.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 wherein the pellet core is prepared by using the methods of extrusion and spheronization.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of pharmaceutical formulations according to claim 1 comprising the following steps: preparation of the blend of the ingredients for the core, granulation, extrusion and spheronization, drying and optionally coating.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method for treating benign prostatic hyperplasia comprising: administering a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical formulation of claim [[13]] 1 to a patient in need thereof.